FULL REPORT ON PAGE TWENTY

STOCK QUOTATIONS PAGE 20

No. 19,545.

# FIVE HOTELS BURN AT ST. AUGUSTINE; **GUESTS ARE SAVED**

County Courthouse and Many Other Structures Destroyed by the Flames.

LOSS IS OVER \$500,000. **BESIDES VALUED RELICS** 

Famous Vedder House, Containing Historical Society Archives. Among Ruined Buildings.

STORIES OF HEROIC RESCUES

One Woman Has Back Broken and Will Die as Result of Jump ing From Third-Story

Hotel Window.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., April 2.-Fire early today destroyed five tourists' hotels, the county courthouse and a num no lives were lost, though many guests Florida House, the Munson House Clairmont Atlantic and Centra notels, which were destroyed, escaped scantily clad and had no time to save their personal belongings. Property damige is estimated at between \$500,000 and

Miss Alice M. Smith of Amhurst, Nova Scotia, leaped from the third story of a building and her back was broken. She will die. A. Libbey, a guest of the Florida House, also jumped from an upper winlow and broke a leg and was badly haken up. He will recover.

The area burned was two long blocks in the heart of the city along the bay shore. In this area were the hotels and a number of residences and summer cottages, together with the Genovar Theater. All were destroyed except the Magnelia Hotel, which was saved by hard work. The area burned was two long blocks

### Help From Jacksonville.

The Jacksonville fire brigade arrived

there at 4 o'clock and soon thereafter the fire was under control. Most of the county records were saved, including the ballots cast yesterday in a good roads bond election, when \$500,000 bonds were voted. The ballots for a wet or dry election today were burned and provisional ballots were quickly printed this morning and the election is proceeding.

The famous Vedder house, one of the oldest in America, containing the price-less relies of the St. Augustine Historical Society, was destroyed with all contents. The National Guard company here was ordered out by Adjutant Gen. Foster to guard the personal belongings of the victims, which are scattered about the plaza. The fire, which was first noticed by Police Officer F. A. McCormick, originated in the second story of the south wing of the Florida House, which was a frame structure, shortly before to clock. Envy clouds of smoke coming from a window in the second story attracted the attention of the policeman, who immediately called the fire department, located only a few steps away. The department was on the scene quickly, but the frame structure burned so rapidly that the flames were uncontrollable and spread to surrounding frame buildings.

Prompt Work Saves Lives.

attention to the rescue of guests. It was only this prompt action that prevented loss of fe

vented loss of .fe.

The buildings destroyed follow: Florida
House, Munson House, Clairmont Hotel,
Central Hotel, Atlantic Hotel: power boat
house on the bay front, Lynn two-story
brick building, Clairence, Rogers' residence, courthouse, Mrs. Lizzle Smith
residence, Genovar Theater building, Sylvester blacksmith, shon, Nook extrem-

The flames were under control shortly after daybreak and the city looked then upon the charred area which had nce been the show place of the oldest city in the United States

When the fire attacked and finally destroyed the home of the Power Boat Club, on the bay front, it was the presence of mind of Charles Hopkins, nanager of the races, that sayed \$50,000.

was a large frame building and was soon entirely enveloped in flames.

trained fire fighters was soon felt al-though the flames were then surging through almost the entire area destroyed. Had it not been, however, for the help of the Jacksonville firemen and the come Leon and Alcazar panies of the Ponce de Leon and Alcazar hotels a greater loss might have resulted. It was only through heroic work of the firemen that the Magnolia rlotel was saved. This structure caught time and time again, and frequently the men were upon the point of giving up the battle, only to again resume their fight, which at last proved successful, although the building was considerably damaged.

damaged.

Lodge men joined in the fight when the flames attacked the new fraternal building, and here only persistent effort prevented another of the city's prominent buildings from being reduced to ashes.

### Many Acts of Heroism.

smoke were pouring out of the second floor windows when the alarm was floor windows when the alarm was given. The firemen were quickly at work with ladders, and about twenty-five persons were carried from the building and down the ladders to safety. Cool work prevented a great panic, The hotel men, drilled daily for fires, quickly emptled the houses.

While the Florida House was burning the other hotels got their guests out. At the Florida the fire gongs clanging awoke the sleeping guests, and the bellmen saw that every one got out before they left.

Chairman of Subcommittee, in Opening Debate on Measure, Says

Places Are Safe.

# **GRAND JURY RAPS** COUNTY OFFICIALS

Inquiry Into Business Methods in Montgomery Results in Severe Criticism.

pecial Correspondence of The Star. ROCKVILLE, Md., April 2, 1914. That the grand jury which adjourned here late yesterday afternoon, after having been in session fifteen days, was not very favorably impressed with the business methods of the boards of county commissioners and county public school commissioners, to investigating which the jury devoted much of its time, was evi-

denced by the report submitted to the court. Not only did the report declare that there had been a "reckless expenditure of money for road and school purposes," but it charged both the county commissioners and school commissioners with violating the law.

rollable and spread to surrounding frame buildings.

Prompt Work Saves Lives.

Firemen and others who gathered when the alarm sounded turned their attention to the rescue of guests. It was only this prompt action that prevented loss of .fe.

The buildings destroyed follow: Florida House, Munson House, Clairmont Hotel, Central Hotel, Atlantic Hotel: power boat bouse on the bay front, Lynn two-story brick building. Clarence, Rogers' residence, courthouse. Mrs. Lizzle Smith house on the bay front, Lynn two-story brick building. State of the county commissioners we found that two of the commissioners. We found that two of the commissioners ignored their duties as they thought best, although censured by him."

As suggested by Judge Peter in his charge to the grand jury) the amuse-ment parks at Glen Echo and Chevy Chase Lake were investigated so far as their operation Sundays is concerned. In regard to the park at Chevy Chase Lake the report declares it to be a "trifling affair" and that no violations of law were learned of.

J. D. Puller residence, Gould T Butler residence and cottages, George W. Corbett residence p. G. W. Potter residence, old Vedder building, Joseph Flat building, Sallas building, Sanchez building, Monson cottage and several smaller cottages.

Buildings damaged by flames: Lynn frame building, Magnolia Hotel, Nourey paint shop, Deardoff residence and other smaller structures.

Among the buildings first to go was the St. John's county courthouse, which had been supposed to be a firegroof structure. The ballots in yesterday's good roads bond election were in an open hall of the courthouse and but for the heroic efforts of County Commissioner Townsend would have been destroyed. Valuable records courthouse and but for the heroic efforts of County Commissioner Townsend would have been destroyed. Valuable records which were stored in the courthouse were saved and it is not believed that the records in the fireproof vaults of the county clerk will in any way be damaged.

City's Show Place in Ruins.

The flames were under control shortly

### that the amusement company's entertain-ment be not interfered with." Would Limit Attorneys' Fees.

The grand jury found that the attorreceived \$1,350 for his services for the year ending June 30, 1913. "We believe this amount excessive and unwarrantby the speed craft. Rushing to the boat-house, he ran here and there cutting the moorings of the valuable boats and pushed away, they sailed unharmed to a safe harbor in the bay.

Priceless treasures were reduced to smoldering bits of wood and charred paper when the flames attacked the old Vedder building, where the historical curios of the Historical Society were stored. Records of the old Spanish days, whose value could not be expressed in terms of mere money, and which had long been viewed with interest and instruction by thousands of winter visitors, were entirely destroyed. St. Augustine feels the destruction of these curios even more destroyed, but which can be replaced.

With the city crowded with winter visitors, hundreds ran excitedly through the streets. Families became separated where. Adjutant General Foster established an information bureau in the plaza to answer the many questions asked and an amount excessive and unwarranted. "at where the historical scores for the report, call work. We find that the predectoessor of the present attorney received not ever \$5.50 a year. We recommend that a limit be set for this service to include all regular and special work.

The report recommends the enactment of a law permitting each collection district to elect its own county commissioner. "The two districts adjoining Washington." declares the report, "ere very much more progressive than the upper districts, they being practically suburbs of the District of Columbia. The development of street extensions, gas mains, street car lines and sewerage work should be encouraged to the fullest extent, and we believe these people should be allowed to choose their own commissioner." The report strongly indowed the administration of County Commissioner George G. Bradley, Jr., who represents the fourth collection district, According to the report, he gave more direct information to the jury than any other member of the board. "He has adopted a supervisory system ed," says the report, "although it is

the streets. Families became separated and personal effects were scattered everywhere. Adjutant General Foster established an information bureau in the plaza to answer the many questions asked, and every effort was made to locate friends.

Fight to Save Opera House.

The flames spread east and north, fannet by a stiff breeze, and carried the Genover Opera House in their path. This was a large frame building and was soon

were examined and twenty-one indict-ments found. The county almshouse was It was shortly after this structure went that a call was sent to Jacksonville for heip. Chief Haney and a portion of his equipment, including a truck and engine, were rushed here on a special train, male mentage is praised for his work, lusanitary conditions were found in the jail and courthouse, and the employment of an assistant for the janitor is recommended.

### ALL JOBS SAFE, JOHNSON ASSURES

Declares No One Will Suffer Under Legislative Bill Now Before House.

Many acts of heroism are being reported at the Florida House, where the
fire started. Dense volumes of black CARED FOR IN ANOTHER

day, Representative Johnson of South pper floors. Others were carried down le ladders and fire escapes in an orderly which handles the bill, declared that bunted for the manager gave the he said that the reduction in one de-

140 fewer salaries than were appropri-ated for this year and 692 less than were specifically called for in the estimate.

In explanation of how those whose jobs will not be appropriated for, including the ten principal examiners at \$2,000 each in the pension office, the forty-five clerks at \$1,200 and the forty-five special examiners at \$1,300 each, Mr. Johnson spoke as follows:

aminers at \$1,300 each, Mr. Johnson spoke as follows:

"If I were not so familiar with the bill I would be suspicious of it after reading an account of it in the paper, but I can assure you that it is a good, clean bill.

### Only Two Salary Cuts.

There are only two salaries reduced by the bill, both of which are in the Post Office Department. One salary is reduced \$0,000 to \$4,800 and the other is reduced from \$3,500 to \$2,750. These reductions were made at the request of the Postmaster General.

the Postmaster General.

"The places are filled by men who were notified when they accepted the positions that the salaries would be reduced to conform with like positions in other departments. That is the extent of the cutting in this bill.

"There is not a word of truth in the statement that any one will lose jobs under this bill. We inserted a provision in this bill that only one vacancy out of ever four shall be filled at the pension office. This provision has been carried in the bill for many years.

"Vacancies as they occur are not to "Vacancies as they occur are not to be filled, in order that it may not be necessary as the work diminishes to discharge any one from the service. In the estimates submitted by the commissioner of pensions he asked for a reduction of about 145 places. The committee, believing that certain work was being duplicated in the disbursing office of the pension bureau, provided a reduction there.

"We have provided for an additional force to take care of the new post office

force to take care of the new post office at the Union station, and to take care of the old bureau of engraving and print-ing, to which will be moved all the auditors of the Treasury with the excepti

### Other Places For Them.

"The reduction at the census bureau was made on the recommendation of not need certain employes now on the pay roll when the census office is and Pennsylvania avenue.

and Pennsylvania avenue.

"The employes suffering on account of these reductions will be taken care of in the new post office or at the old bureau of engraving and printing or in other places where we have provided increase of forces."

On page six of the report the increase in force of the bureau of engraving and printing is given as fourteen watchmen, six day charwomen, twenty-five morning and evening charwomen, ten laborers, and

and evening charwomen, ten lab the addition to the new Washington pos office force is described as being seventy seven employes, including assistant en gineers, electrician, elevator conductors

### to the park at Chevy Chase Lake out declares it to be a "trifling and that no violations of law surped of

Blaze Causes Much Excitement, But the Damage Will Not Exceed \$100.

Fire in the pension office this afternoon caused about \$100 damage, and created much excitement among the em-ployes for a time. Shortly after 1 o'clock flames were discovered in the roof of the building at the western end and a moment later the breaking of glass and the sounding of the fire gong caused hundreds of clerks on the several floors of the office to rush from their rooms. The small size of the blaze, however, and the speed with which the fire extinguishers were brought into play soon allayed any fear.
The fire, which broke out in the wooden sheathing beneath the new tin roof which ney to the board of county commissioners is being put on, is believed to have beer is being put on, is believed to have been caused by hot solder, or coals from a tinner's furnace. While the fire damage was done by the streams of water played upon the flames and which fell upon filling cases below. As the cases were directly beneath the point where the glass was falling thickly no one dared to go to close them at the start. The sound of the falling glass led many to believe one of the tinners had fallen from the roof into the court of the office.

Dr. A. T. Randall of the chief clerk's office and Irving B. Altman, a messenger, turned in alarms simultaneously for the fire department. The height of the point where the fire started and the fact that

where the fire started and the fact that after the first outbreak it amounted to not much more than a smoldering blaze between the tin and the sheathing made it difficult to reach except by the fire extinguishers.

#### THE DAY IN CONGRESS. Senate:

Met at 11:50 a.m. Went into prolonged executive session over the nomination of W. M. Daniels of New Jersey to the interstate commerce

Foreign relations committee heard protests against ratification of the London safety at sea con-

Met at noon. Debated the legislative, ecutive and judicial appropria-



WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1914 -TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

IN THE COOLING CHAMBER

# SHOULD GET DIVIDEND

Supreme Court Justice Greenbaum Denies Petition of Equitable to Restrain Union Pacific.

NEW YORK, April 2.- Supreme Court justice Greenbaum today denied the petition of the Equitable Life Assurance Society for an injunction to restrain the Union Pacific Railroad Company from distributing as a special dividend to holders of Secretary Redfield, who said they would \$80,000,000 in cash and stock of the

Baltimore and Ohio railroad. In his decision Justice Greenbaum has the right to accumulate a surplus it has the right to invest that surplus in securities, and if these securities appreciate in value there is no

the corporation. "The agreement, however, reads that the preferred stock is entitled to no other or further share of profits than dividends in each and every fiscal year not exceeding 4 per cent per annum, payable out of net profits The pre-ferred stockholders have regularly reeived a 4 per cent annual dividend.

### Preferred Has No Right to Share.

"To hold now, because an unusually large or extraordinary dividend is de-clared from accumulated surplus or profits, that the preferred stockholders are entitled to participate therein would be to nullify and override the existing contract between the two classes of shareholders."

The Equitable sued to restrain the railroad company on the ground that Union Pacific were entitled to share in the dividend or else have the \$80,000,-

# BLIND GRATEFUL FOR AID.

Streets to Help Them. For the reason that blind persons fre uently pass the corner of 17th and H announcement comes from R. W. Swann. chairman of the District Association of Workers for the Blind.

At a recent meeting of this organizaion it was decided to make the request of Mai. Sylvester, for the reason given e request was complied with, and the ociation desires to express the thank those who will benefit from the order

### ANXIETY FOR KING GUSTAVE. Physicians Announce in Bulletin He

Will Consult German Specialist. STOCKHOLM, Sweden, April 2.—The condition (\* healt) of King Gustave ontinues to cause general anxiety. illetin issued today by the court physicians says:
"Although the health of the king has

improved during the past week, and al-though there is no ground for uneasiness, the royal physicians have recommended his majesty to consult Prof Wilhelm Fleiner, the specialist for in-ternal disease, of Heidelberg, Germany as there are indications of a return of the stomach trouble from which he has

# HOLDS COMMON STOCK TO URGE CAPITAL'S **CLAIM TO HIGHWAY**

Committee of Twenty-Five Holds Meeting at District Building.

Active preparations were begun today by Washington business men to obtain favorable consideration of the proposal that the National Capital be included in the route of the Lincoln memorial highway from San Francisco to New York. The committee of twenty-five appointed the claims of Washington in the matter met in the District building today and arrest last night being renewed. He passed a resolution requesting the District heads to arrange for a conference reason why the profits should not be between representatives of the committee regarded as profits of the business of and the Lincoln Highway Association. whose headquarters are in Detroit, Mich.

#### For Conference Here. Effort will be made to have the con

ference held in this city and, in such vent, the committee will entertain the officials of the association at a uncheon or dinner Robert N. Harper, chairman, presided

at the first meeting of the committee today. A Leftwich Sinclair was elected secretary. That Washington's claims will be given favorable consideration was the prediction made by J. M. Stod-dard, who stated that he had been in communication with men high in the councils of the association and many of them are favorable to the highway coming by Philadelphia, Balti more and Washington, rather than by the southern Pennsylvania route.

### Not an Added Expense.

Chairman Harper stated that the inclusion of Washington in the route would not mean an added expense, as all the roads that would be required are now nearly complete.

It was pointed out by B. F. Saul that

Harriman system.

It was pointed out by B. F. Saul that, it is understood that the Equitable inasmuch as the federal government is will appeal from today's decision. erecting a national memorial to Lin-coln in Washington, a roadway should by all means touch this city. Those who attended the meeting were Capt. Jame. F. Oyster, A. Leftwich Sinclair, A. Lis ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Graham Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th and H ner, Howard S. Reeside, E. C. Granam Policeman Stationed at 17th Action P

### MAY BE MURDER AND SUICIDE. hereafter be stationed there to insure Man and Wife Are Found Dead From Bullet Wounds.

PHILADELPHIA, April 2.-Hearing four revolver shots in quick succession early today, a policeman and a night watchman broke into a house in West Philadelphia and found Alexander laser, thirty years old, and his wife. Julia, twenty-eight, dead from bullet vounds. In the house they also found crying the couple's two sons, six and ight, unharmed.

Neighbors said the husband feared e was going blind, and the police be-leve this disarranged his mind and led im to kill his wife and himself.

### SIX PERSONS ESCAPE.

One of Those in Flight From Cairo, Ill., Is Murderer. CAIRO, Ill., April 2.-Six prisoner

escaped from the county jail early today. Among them was W. M. Wilson, sentenced to be hanged April 24 for the murder of Thomas C. Logan, a special officer of the Mobile and Ohio rail-It is supposed the fugitives boarded

the stomach trouble from which he has been suffering.

"Prof. Fleiner will arrive in Stockholm on Saturday."

The king has been alling for some lime. He underwent an operation for pependicitis in 1910, and in October last year again fell ill.

It is supposed the fugitives boarded a freight train. The men escaped by sawing the steel bars of a cell. Two hundred dollars reward was offered for hundred train. Before murdering Logan, Wilson escaped from the Ohio pentitentiary, where he was serving a life sentence.

# SON OF LEWIS NIXON ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT

Student at Yale Scientific School Charged With Taking Part in Riot.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 2.-Stan hope W. Nixon of New York city, a Yale Scientific School student and sor of Lewis Nixon, former democratic na tional committeeman, was formally assault upon Edward H. Everitt chief engineer of the Southern New England His lawyers Telephone Company. were not ready for the hearing and a

His father, who came to the city last night, in response to a telegraphic re-quest from his son, accompanied the young man to thecourthouse, but re-mained in an anteroom during the pro-

### Followed Wine Party.

The alleged assault on Everitt, which nearly killed him, took place last October. Nixon has told the police followed a wine party at a local hotel at which he and a number of other students had been present. and occurred while they were returning to their

There was a student outbreak There was a student outbreak, during which iron bolts were hurled chrough windows of homes of prominent residents.

Detectives have been working quietly ever since last fall.

### Made Complete Confession.

Several iron bolts were found in made a complete confession, according drinking with other students but otherwise gave no explanation of his

surprise at Yale. He is one of the most popular men in college, a mem ber of the varsity crew squad and be er of the varsity crew squad and be ongs to the Berseillus Society.

### AEROS RACE TO MONACO. Machines Leave Seven European

LONDON, April 2.-A series of aeroplane races, from seven European capitals to Monaco, began simultaneously this morning. There were four entrants for the flight from London. Pierre Verrier was the first starter, leaving Hendon at daybreak with a mechanic as passenger. After reaching Eastbourne, on the channel, however. Verrier abandoned his flight, owing to the dense fog. The competitors starting from London

Capitals Simultaneously.

must make stops at Calals and at Dijon. Their time limit is fifteen days, to complete the flight of 800 miles. Before Verrier started he declared his intention of flying back to London after he had reached Monaco, and said he expected to complete the round trip in ten

#### German Army Aviator Killed. MUNICH. Bavaria, April 2.-Lieut.

Lankmeyer, a German army aviator, was killed, and Lieut. Ruchti, whom he carried as a passenger, was seriously injured today in an aeroplane accident. Their propeller broke while they were flying at a low altitude over serodrome. Pieces of the proaerodrome. Pieces of the propeller snapped the rigging and the machine collapsed.

SANTIAGO, Chile, April 2.-Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia arrived here today from Buenos Aires. Representatives of the Chilean government greeted them at the station. They will proceed to Valparaiso.

Prince Henry at Santiago, Chile.

### SHIPS' DEATH ROLL MAY GO TO 300

Steamers Newfoundland and Holds Part of City, He Re-Possibly the Red Cross Lost in Northern Sea.

BLIZZARD HITS SEALERS AMID FLOES OF ICE

Estimates Place 170 as Dead as Result of Loss of Newfoundland Alone.

CURLING, N. F., April 2.-Reports eceived here today state that the sealng steamer Newfoundland was lost off Cape Race and the greater part of her erew of 170 men perished. No word has quarters that fighting continued today

Cross, reported in trouble in the same

vicinity Tuesday. Rescue ships have picked up fifty odies of the crew of the Newfound-

### Newfoundland Caught in Blizzard.

NEW YORK. April 2.-Bowring & Co., agents here for the Red Cross Line, own-ers of spyeral steamers, including the ers of several steamers, including the Florizel, now on sealing expeditions off Newfoundland, said they had received a message today announcing that the sealing steamer Newfoundland and the greater part of her crew had been lost off Cape Race. The Florizel is believed to be engaged in the rescue work.

A private message received here from

St. Johns, N. F., says: "The sealer Newfoundland was caught a blizzard while sealing and over of her crew were frozen to death The Red Cross steamer Florizel picked up fifty men dead and dying after the Newfound-land sank. The total loss of life on the

### Newfoundland is about 170 Perhaps Over 300 Lost.

will exceed 300 tield March 10

The Newfoundland was owned by the pany, Limited, of which A. Harvey & Co. of St. Johns are the agents. steamer was built in Quebec in 1872 and registered 919 tons gross. She was 212 feet long, and had been engaged in sealing for a number of years.

"The Southern Cross was commanded by Capt. John Clark. She was formerly named the Pollux, and was built in 1886. She registered 537 tons

### ross and was 146 feet long. OPPOSITION IS PERSISTENT. Senate Resumes Consideration

W. M. Daniels' Nomination. The Senate resumed today in executive session, continuing consideration of the nomination of Winthrop M. of New Jersey 'as interstal 10. the bond of \$1.500 set after his arrest last night being renewed. He was not called on to plead. commerce commissioner to succeed the late John H. Marble. Opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Daniels, it has developed, is persistent

Daniels, it has developed, is persistent and the senators predicted that the debate behind closed doors would continue all day, thus preventing Senator La Foliette from speaking in the open Senate on his bill to penalize persons seeking to influence unduly members of the intersection o

erence to the pending rate increase hearings.

Both Senators La Foliette and Cummins are opposing the confirmation of Mr. Daniels, whose nomination was held up in the interstate commerce committee for nearly three months. No personal light, it is understood, is being made on the New Jersey nominee, but he is opposed on the ground that he entertains unsound economic views as to railway valuation.

Vilia has been surrounded and is unable to retire from his position in the outtack both from the north and south. Senor Algara, says this is, in his opinion, the explanation why Villa has not sent through definite dispatches regarding the sleep of Torreon when he has had the telegraph—stations in his possession. The embassy here also learned that dispatches sent earlier telling of the arrival of reinforcements and the strong position.

### WOULD BAR TIME LIMIT.

### Secretary Bryan Favors Treaties of Indefinite Length.

Secretary Bryan of the State Depart ment has laid before the Senate foreign relations committee a proposal that in the future arbitration treaties between the United States and foreign nations be so worded that they will run indefinitely instead of being negotiated for periods of five years, as at present. He said he favored such a change and desired to get the views of the committee mem-

Secretary Bryan pointed out that several of the old arbitration treaties have been renewed recently and that more will expire under the five-year limit in a short In renewing them he desired to change them so that hey will continue in force until one nation or the other ses a desire to terminate them. H added that he would like to have the presumption in favor of their continuance rather than of their ending. Several members of the committee expressed their opinions on Mr. Bryan's proposal, differing in their views:

### TO DECIDE CASE APRIL 11.

Judge Mullowny To Rule On Alleged Vehicle Discrimination. The question of whether or not own-

rs of horse-drawn vehicles used for vehicles used for private purposes is to be decided by Judge Mullowny in the be decided by Judge Mullowny in the Police Court Saturday, April 11.

James W. Bean, ash collector for the District of Columbia, who employs about 250 vehicles, was arrested early in January on a charge of failing to have vehicle tags attached to his wagons.

Attorney Miller appeared for Mr. Bean and filed a motion to quash the information.

Attorney Miller appeared for Mr. Bean and filed a motion to quash the information, principally on the ground that it discriminates between classes of individuals, and p'aces burdens upon one class not imposed upon the other classes using vehicles running on the public

# GEN. VILLA KEEPS **UP TORREON FIGHT**

ONE CENT.

ports, and Expects to Obtain Triumph.

### FEDERALS MAKE STAND IN CANYON OF HURACHE

### Defenders Have Strong Fortifications There and Are Offering Stout Resistance.

JUAREZ, Mexico, April 2.-Out of the

maze of reports and denials concerning the activities of Gen. Francisco Villa a Torreon last night and early today the assumption was drawn at rebel head been received of the sealer Southern This conclusion was based on a telegram from Villa to Gen. Carranza last night. Interest here also centered on the report ed movements of reinforcements for the federal troops of Gen. Velasco at Torreon Heavy fighting was in progress at Toreon yesterday, according to a sand-word report received by Carranza from Villa last night. The gist of the information was given out through Gen.

### Villa Expects to Win.

Reports that Torreon had fallen were definitely denied by Gen. Villa vesterday congratulations on the "fall" of Torreor dispatched to him Tuesday by Col. Fidel Avila, chief of arms of the garrison here Gen. Villa replied as follows:

There is no news from the sealer countern Cross, and this ship also is supposed to be lost with all on board. If so, the death list on the two boats will exceed 300.

"The sealing fleet sailed for the ice led March 10.

"The Southern Cross is the ship which Shackleton used in his antarctic xpedition."

The Newfoundland was owned by the teamship Newfoundland Sealing Combined and you which A. Harvey & 20. of St. Johns are the agents. The which Shackleton used in his antarctic

Making Circuit of Rebels. It has been reported that Gen. Maas, with federal reinforcements, who has been reported at Saltillo, which is to the east of Torreon, is making a circult to the south, with the purpose, the rebels assume, of joining the Velasco

forces in Huarache. According to Senor Breceda the rebets have cut the railroad between San Luis Potosi and Aguas Calientes. This is 300 miles south of Torreon, and is said to indicate the activity of another column of rebets intent on hindering the movements of the federals.

### Positive Statements Come to Mexican Embassy Here

of Torreon Reinforcements Positive statements from consuls at El state commerce commission.

Senator Cummins also had planned to speak or railroad conditions with reference to the pending rate increase hearis in a desperate position. Senor Algara

> of Gen. Jose Refugio Velasco had been intercepted on this side of the border.
>
> The reinforcements that have thus been reported as arriving at Torreon are those sent from Saltillo, 169 miles to the east, under command of Gen. Joaquin Maas and Gen. Javier de Moure. The dispatches did not state the strength of these forces, but they have been variously estimated at from 3,000 to 8,000 men. At constitutionalist headquarters these reports are discredited. Officials here claim that they have received one direct telegram from Roberto V. Pasquiera, conclaim that the claim that the claim that the constitution of the constitutionalist government in Washington, who is now with the constitutionalist Venustiano Carranza in Juarez. He assured them that Gen. Villa is in a domisured them that Gen. Villa is in a domi-nant position, that he is endeavoring to capture the stronghold of Gen. Velasco with the least possible loss of life to the rebels, and that Gen. Villa will soon be triumphant. He positively denied that re-inforcements have reached Torreon.

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### Naval Engagement Reported.

Rear admiral Howard reported today from the Mexican west coast that an engagement between the federal gunboat Guerero and the rebel vessel Tampico had taken place Tuesday. The Tampico, after having been struck ten times, he adds, had returned to Topolobampo where the vessel was aground listed to starboard. The machinery of the Tampico, he said, was still in good working order and the ship's force was endeavoring to repair the hull.

German citizens at Guaymas have refused payment of an attempted forced ers of horse-drawn vehicles used for business purposes in the District of Columbia are legally discriminated against in favor of owners of similar vehicles used for private purposes is to who has been selected to be second secretary at Mexico City, is now in Washington, and his nomination for that post is expected to be sent to the Senate this week. It is probable that he will be immediately confirmed and will proceed to the Mexico capital at once. Mr. O'Shaughnessy is to take a vacation. Probably he will come to Washington. There is a feeling in official circles that he will not return to Mexico City. ico City

### Explain Villa's Tactics.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Williams at that time said he would file a brief in the case, which he declared would show that the law was constitutional. In court today Judge Mullowny notified Mr. Williams that he intended to give his decision in the case on the date stated, and that he must file his brief before that time.

Torreon is a deliberate plan on the part of Gen. Villa to force the federals to throw away their ammunition. They point out that it is an old trick of his to get his enemy in a pocket where he cannot replication in the case on the date stated, and that he must file his brief before that time.

Consitutionalist leaders here say they